

Approved For Release 2004/10/12 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000600090063-4



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

28 October 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Melvin R. Laird
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT : Enemy Force Levels and Infiltration Rates

1. Attached hereto is a memorandum entitled, "Enemy Force Levels and Infiltration Rates," which was prepared by my associates in response to your request for a retrospective study of enemy force levels and infiltration figures.

2. Appended to this memorandum are the tabular presentations requested on your behalf by Mr. Doolin. You will note that some of the detailed data called for in Mr. Doolin's request is not given. For some categories, the data requested simply is not available. For others, the memorandum outlines the reasons we feel we are unable to provide a complete retrospective data series and why we feel any attempt to do so would be inherently misleading rather than helpful. As you are well aware, estimating enemy force levels is a complicated problem beset with many areas of uncertainty. Attempting to go back in time on a spongy data base to make retrospective adjustments is an even more uncertain venture. In the attached memorandum, we have done our best to provide all the information available that bears on your problem but have not been willing to put in numbers simply to fill in blanks where we feel such numbers would do you a disservice.

3. Per our discussion on Monday, 26 October, I will bring with me to next week's meeting the principal drafter of the attached memorandum, who will be available to answer any further questions you may have after reading it.

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4. Because the requests related to the subject here covered have come both directly from you and indirectly via Mr. Doolin, I am sending him a copy of this memorandum and its attachments. A copy is also being sent to Mr. Packard.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

[Redacted]

DD/OER: [Redacted] (27Oct70)

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Distribution

Copy No. 1 - Secretary Laird
Copy No. 2 - Deputy Secretary Packard
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